

CLARENCE VALLEY COAST AND ESTUARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

Meeting held on Friday, 5th March 2021 at the Maclean Council Chambers

ITEM 1 INTRODUCTION: WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Meeting opened at 09:30 with Cr Clancy in the chair. Cr Clancy acknowledged the traditional owners:

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodian of these lands on which this event is taking place and pay tribute and respect to the Elders both past and present and emerging of the Bundjalung, Gumbaynggirr and Yaegl nations which lie within the Council boundary.

Attendance:

Voting: Cr Greg Clancy, Peter Maslen, Imelda Jennings, Peter Rose, Kevin Sheehan, Danielle Adams, Roslyn Woodward

Guests: Robyn Campbell, Uriah Makings (Hydrosphere) and Josh Chivers (NPWS) – via MS Teams

Agencies: Marc Daley (DPIE), John Kennedy (NPWS), David Greenhalgh (Fisheries SIMR), Jonathan Yantsch (DPIE Fisheries), William (Billy) Walker (YTOAC)

CVC Officers: Greg Mashiah, Peter Wilson

Apologies received from:

Name	Organisation / Role	
Des Schroder	CVC	
Scott Lenton	CVC	
Ross Roberts	Harwood Marine	
Jamie Fleeting	CVC	
Ken Laurie	YTOAC	

Quorum: 6

Total Members at todays CV C&EMC: 7 Quorum reached – Yes /No

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST NIL

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
Motion: That the minutes of the Clarence Valley Coast and Estuary Management Committee held on 06 November 2020 be confirmed.

Moved Peter Maslen, Seconded Peter Rose CARRIED

ITEM 4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Clarence Valley Coast Coastal Management Program Scoping Study – Final Draft (for committee’s endorsement to Council)

Consultants Hydrosphere have completed the Stage 1 (Scoping Study) report. The Committee may recall a draft version of the Study was presented at the previous meeting for comment. Should Stage 1 be adopted CVC, will proceed to the next stages. National Parks plan to collaborate with CVC for the next stages (in particular Stage 2).

Questions:

- Angourie
 - Concern that if Angourie isn’t mentioned much in the Study, issues such as slumping, erosion, reconstruction of beach access, exposure of Aboriginal heritage (middens) won’t be managed.
 - The access road slope, which was reconstructed 8 years ago, is slumping again by about 50%, due to beach erosion, instability and stormwater.
Hydrosphere: With relation to the Study, the beach erosion at Angourie is included. The whole coastline will be part of the Stage 2 Study re: beach erosion. We can have another look at the middens and at slope instability within the definitions, but the Spooky Beach erosion sounds more stormwater related.
- Native Title
 - Yaegl Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (RNTBC) to be notified under the Native Title Act, regardless of the studies. The land is important to them and they should be engaged before studies, etc. are undertaken.
Hydrosphere: It’s part of the consultation plan that there will be ongoing consultation in all stations. The intent moving forward is to engage agencies and Native Title owners.
 - Mapping Project – Billy Walker advised that Council is funding a project to help identify sites of cultural significance, not all of which are included in the AHIMS’ database due to the cultural sensitivity. Confidentiality between YTOAC and CVC is important as some sites are too culturally significant to be made public. Some sites were identified with predicted significance. The database and mapping still to be worked out between Council and the corporation. Would also like to physically audit and assess the sites. Stakeholders will also be updated with information about sites. Bushfires inadvertently exposed (damaged) some important sites that weren’t registered on the AHIMS.
- Lake Wooloweyah
 - Positive feedback about the Study. Noted that Wooloweyah lagoon will be mostly moved into the Estuary report. Nick O’Brien (through Ros W) raised concerns about the lagoon, in relation to water quality and risk of turbidity.
Hydrosphere: Issues should be covered but in terms of Table 1, we’ve only highlighted what we considered to be the highest risks in relation to the risk assessment. We can take it on notice and may also need to update our risk assessment.
- Make Study Public
 - Positive feedback about the Study and think the study should be made available to the public when finalised.
CVC: Intend to make it available on the CVC website when finalised.

Motion: **That the Clarence Valley Coast and Estuary Management Committee recommends Council adopt the Coastal Management Program scoping study and proceed with Stages 2, 3 and 4 (subject to grant funding), with appropriate consultation with Yaegl Traditional Land Owners and a review of the issues raised with Lake Wooloweyah and Angourie.**

Moved *Peter Maslen,* Seconded *Danielle Adams* **CARRIED**

Clarence Fisheries Productivity Project (late Col Creighton project)

Contacted the Water Research Lab of NSW, who advised that that data has been analysed. Hopefully they will present at the next CandE Management Committee meeting. Danielle mentioned that they had returned recently to gather some additional information.

Wooloweyah Seagrass Project (SCU Marine Science Centre)

A/Prof Steve Smith (our key contact) from the SCU Marine Science Centre advised he will be made redundant following a university restructure. He will then work as a consultant. He mentioned another potential contact and we are waiting for details. If it doesn't work out we might have to look at other options.

Action: CVC to follow up with Southern Cross University in relation to the Wooloweyah Seagrass Project

Motion: The Coast and Estuary Management Committee request that Southern Cross University continue with the Wooloweyah Seagrass Project

Moved Roslyn Woodward, Seconded Peter Marsden CARRIED

ITEM 5 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

ITEM 6 AGENCY UPDATES

NPWS

CMP Scoping Study

- Want to endorse the CMP scoping study. It was a good document that captured a lot of issues. National Parks do have a couple of focus areas where we are concerned about erosion and assets. In relation to National Parks collaborating with CVC for the next stages, we will need meet and discuss the financial contribution from National Parks

Policy for large animal carcasses

- Last year, a 40t carcass was buried on site. There hasn't been any change and it is still the policy, but National Parks and other agencies, such as Crowns Lands and CVC, need to discuss how to manage certain scenarios. There are also cultural aspects and we should also discuss with Yaegl and community representatives. John K will make contact with Peter Birch, Billy Walker and a community member. YTOAC: We'd like to have a ceremony and have them buried on Country.

CRFC

Following the DPIE-Fisheries presentation to the November 2020 Committee meeting on the *Saving our threatened species: North Coast* project, the CRFC Board has agreed to support the project through the provision of fish food.

Cane Growers

Due to more favourable weather, we're projecting to cut more cane next year.

DPIE

Coastal Future Direction document

- Statement being put together. Online opportunities for input from key stakeholders. (Marc D)

DPI Fisheries

Fish Kills

- No major fish kills reported after the recent rains and nothing in the Clarence Valley LGA. There is still the potential for fish kills if hot weather and rainfall continue.

Council Workshops

- We have requested additional information for proposed development on Orion Drive, Yamba. Includes a proposal to site some dwellings on key fish habitat.
- Currently undertaking some fish-friendly council workshops. Aimed at talking to Councils to help them understand requirements and best-practice. We audit all works from the last couple of years and the feedback is that CVC have generally been doing a good job and complying with permits for on-ground works. There is one outstanding item which will be detailed in a letter to CVC in relation to the offset for a bridge project.

Marine Parks

- The way marine parks are managed is being reviewed. Hopefully will be up for public consultation before the end of the year. CVC will be informed when it is out.

CVC

CMP Scoping Study

- Initially decided to undertake the Coastline and Estuary CMP studies separately. We should be able to do Stages 2, 3 and 4 of the Coastline CMP simultaneously with Stage 1 (Scoping Study) of the Estuary CMP.

CVC: The area covered by the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Coastal Management) 2018* (SEPP) extends to Tucabia and Copmanhurst.

Motion: That the Coast and Estuary Management Committee recommends to Council to proceed with Stage 1 (Scoping Study) of the Estuary Coastal Management Program, subject to grant funding.

Moved Peter Maslen, Seconded Imelda Jennings CARRIED

Brooms Head Environmental Design & Assessment

- Consultant incorporating comments from DPIE.

Wooli Beach Management Scheme

- Waiting for minor document changes to happen.

Community Rep (Imelda)

Lake Wooloweyah

- Is Lake Wooloweyah zoned as 'W1' (and the proposed development at Orion Drive)?
CVC: Lake Wooloweyah, Oyster Channel and Palmers Channel are 'Zone W1'. Most of the land on Micalo Island adjoining waterways is zoned E1 or E2, with some zoned RU2. The proposed development at Orion Drive is within the Oyster Cove area, which is zoned R2.

Developments

- For a hypothetical major development on the edge of Lake Wooloweyah or estuary system, will the coastal zone document need to be referred to, and in the meantime, are there other documents that need to be referred to?
CVC: When considering development the relevant planning documents in order of precedence are SEPPs (including the Coastal Management SEPP), the Clarence Valley Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and the various Development Control Plans (DCP) adopted by Council. The SEPP and LEP are statutory documents and their requirements need to be followed; the DCP are policy documents of Council and therefore can be varied by the Councillors when considering a development.
- Why is the CandE Management Committee not consulted when developments have the potential to affect the estuary?
CVC: The role of the CandE Management Committee as outlined in Section 2 of its constitution is to advise Council on developing and implementing Management Plans related to Coasts and Estuaries and initiating and overseeing coastline and estuary management processes. Once the CMPs are finalised, if there's any changes required to the LEP then CVC consider changes to the plan and submits a request to

the State Government, which has the ultimate approval role in terms of changes to the LEP. Committee members with concerns regarding developments are encouraged to make individual submissions. State Government agency representatives noted that as they may have a statutory role in commenting on developments and potentially issuing approvals it would be inappropriate for them to comment on any development proposals at a committee meeting.

YTOAC

- Suggest the CandE Management Committee attend an induction around Native Title, for stakeholders to gain an understanding about our non-exclusive rights. We have a legal team that represent us through an agreement. Also suggest inviting stakeholders to Country to discuss.

Action: Arrange an address from the relevant representatives at YTOAC.

ITEM 7 GENERAL BUSINESS

Alternative Options for Managing Erosion

- Looking at alternatives to rock to manage erosion in estuary areas. Hope to receive advice from consultants and talk to Yaegl representatives about a better approach to managing riverbanks. Kieran McAndrew (CVC) is putting a brief together for a consultant for Floodplain Management which could potentially be applied to Coast and Estuary Management.
DPIE Fisheries: Fisheries also looks at bank management strategies. We're trying to make 'best-practice' now a standard practice which is environmentally sympathetic. We're reviewing the different types of erosion and different erosion protection works to match up the best management options e.g. fillets, inter-tidal benching.

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING

Friday 04 June 2021 at 9:30am

ITEM 9 CLOSE OF MEETING

Meeting closed at 11:19am